

WARNING INTELLIGENCE APPRAISAL

USSR:

A MILITARY OPTION (U)

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Summary

[Excised] Recent Soviet military activity in [excised] indicates Soviet Armed Forces in that area are in the early stages of preparation to take action in Iran. DIA believes these activities reflect intent to be prepared to intervene militarily in Iran, should the Soviet leadership elect that course of action.

Background

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Discussion of [excised] Military Activity

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Mobilizations and deployments to initial staging or defensive locations occur regularly throughout the year for purposes of realistic training and operations readiness. However, Soviet activities [excised] must be viewed in the context of the Iranian situation. If viewed separately, the factors discussed are not conclusive. [Excised] combined with [excised] war or offensive preparation [are] difficult to differentiate from training exercises.

We conclude these events represent an "exercise" only in the sense of conducting such exercises with masking - to allow undetected transition to an improved level of readiness for military operations. [Excised] Therefore, we believe readiness for threat of war or for intervention could be reached in well under thirty days.

Outlook

[Excised] Assuming continued preparations, DIA believes Soviet forces will reach readiness for threat of war within the next few weeks, but will need to [excised] and take other detectable measures before reaching full readiness. DIA will keep the close attention necessary to assure tasking [excised] for soviet activities opposite Iran.

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